

5emorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833Meeting Minutes from the
Ph. (978) 352-5755 □ Fax (978) 352-5727
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Memorial Town Hall
03/28/2022
7:00PM-General Meeting
Verizon Channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: *D. Dawes, Chair, Vice Chair P. Kershaw, G. Fowler, D. Twiss and A. Smith.*

Others Present: *Orlando Pacheco, Town Administrator.
Administrative Assistant, Maureen Shultz participating on Zoom.*

7:00PM CALL TO ORDER

*Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes
Pledge of Allegiance*

PUBLIC HEARING: Change of Manager / Change of Officers / Change of Director & Ownership for Georgetown Flatbread, 252 Andover Street, Georgetown, Mass.

D. Twiss motioned the Board to open the public hearing seconded by P. Kershaw.

Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

D. Twiss motioned the Board to close public hearing seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

No Discussion took place.

D. Twiss motioned the Board to continue the public hearing until the Board of Selectman Meet on April 11, 2022 on a request for A Change of Manager / Change of Officers / Change of Director & Ownership from the Georgetown Flatbread, 252 Andover Street, Georgetown, Mass, seconded by G. Fowler.

Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: National Grid /Discussion on The Brook Meadow Culvert Update:
Curtis Davis, Community Manager from National Grid for the Town of Georgetown and Andrew Cole, Lead Environmentalist Scientist from National Grid were present and spoke on the following topics:

The Following were in attendance / spoke:

*Conservation Agent-Steve Przyjemski
Highway Supervisor-Peter Durkee
Lenny Mirra, State Representative
Peter Durkee, Highway Supervisor for the Town
Steve Przyjemski, Conservation Agent for the Town
Resident Robyn & Douglas MacDonald*

*Resident Ben Rubino
Resident Amanda Goedde
Resident Kim and Billy Kuhn
Resident Peggy Kennedy
Resident Melissa Duff*

Following topics were discussed:

*Working with design engineers for the full replacement of the culvert.
National Heritage was consulted -approval needed by them.
An approved / schedule plan by April
Habitat Assessment.
Beaver solutions, activities & restrictions.
Clean out of the culvert.
Weekly evaluations.
Claims Department / National Grid.
Temporary culvert will remain in place when the new one is installed.
National Grid disagrees to calling this an emergency.
Timeline given by National Grid
Habitat assessment to be done in spring.
E-mail strings and dialogues were spoken of.
Loss of trees / can they be replaced.
Resident voiced concern on turtle information questioned why the information is not public.
record from National Heritage.
Maintenance plan from National Grid.*

D. Dawes spoke of more freezing weather or snow possibly into April or May and asked what has been done in the off season, asked if National Grid's application has made it to the Conservation Committee yet.

D. Dawes asked if the project would be done by May 2022, and asked if the project can be expedited.

D. Twiss commented that roads and homes come first and asked when does it become an emergency, National Heritage puts turtles before culverts and homes and does not agree with that.

P. Kershaw asked if any of the residents have spoken to the Board of Health regarding the septic system and believes this could be very helpful.

D. Dawes wants no one to wait for a Mother's Day storm to happen, leaching fields are above water underneath, water contamination area, suggested neighbors to find your septic system plans, what level would it have to be elevated too to be an emergency level.

Steve Przyjemski, Conservation Commission Agent commented on trying to come with a reason to justify it as an emergency, in the area of concerns the water elevation was not a concern, water rise evaluation for it to become an emergency not being adversely flooded.

D. Dawes asked Peter Durkee, Highway Supervisor if there is restrictive flow and if this can be changed, any way to make the water less.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator, stated Scientific Criteria has to be met, we are not hitting their emergencies, asked about a timeline on materials.

Andrew Cole, Lead Environmentalist Scientist from National Grid gave a target date of April 7th of the application to be given to the Conservation Commission with a target date of April 27, 2022 for Public Hearing unrealistic timeline of the month June was given.

D. Dawes disappointed with the timeline, still have to go through a rainy season.

Resident Peggy Kennedy, 11 Brook Meadow Lane, questioned why weeks goes by with no work being done, been causing damage to personal property, plan is place needs it to be expedited, significant damage to the area and personnel property -National Grid with discuss with the Conservation agent.

Melissa Duff, 12 Oregon Street asked about if delays occur what do the neighbors do at that point.

Resident Larry Hanson, 4 Oregon Street, spoke on the water tables going up, documented information for over two years, lost fencing around his property. Spoke of past Mother's Day flooding. -National Grid asked Mr. Hansom to forward any pictures to them.

G. Fowler asked what type of help do we need to show it is an emergency.

D. Twiss asked National Grid to explain the habitat assessment.

Resident Larry Hanson spoke on his pictures that were sent; National Grid stated they have not seen any photos.

Rep. Lenny Mirra will be calling National Grid & national Heritage send a list to them asking for some help we have a road at risk -need specific list on what we can ask them to expedite this and speaking to them on the process on design and design approval.

D. Twiss asked about driving down Brook Meadow which side is the problem left or right.

G. Fowler inquired about height difference.

D. Twiss requested that all the residents be given a follow up e-mail from National Grid.

Draft Special Town Meeting Warrant was presented by O. Pacheco, Town Administrator.

Two warrant articles are being reviewed by Kopelman & Paige, five potential articles -were carried over for the previous year

Article 1-Adjustment to the Fiscal Year23 budget. Five (5) potential articles carried over from previous year.

Article 2- Appropriate from free cash for snow and ice budget -that's a maybe, if area could be used, we won't need article.

Article 3-Two (2) year prior bills -1) Kopelman & Paige and 2) Tyler Technologies.

D. Twiss asked if these bills are regular invoices from Kopelman & Paige.

Article 4-5 Potential fund transfer from free cash to be added to the accrued liability fund.

D. Dawes asked Peter Durkee, Highway Supervisor who was present how the Town is doing with the snow and ice budget currently.

O. Pacheco, TA stated that once the Town Warrant is closed it then becomes the Town Moderator's Warrant.

G. Fowler asked if there is a reason why we can't just close the Town Warrant this evening. And stated we can still add items as long as the Board re-opens the warrant. (See below motion)

Annual Town Meeting draft discussion was presented by Orlando Pacheco, Town Administrator.

Article 1-Town officers & Committee Reports

Article 2- General Operating Budget Proposed --adjustment to the FY22 town budget

Article 3-Two prior year bills -Tyler Technologies & Kopelman & Paige.

Article 4-Capital Funds if any.

Article 5-OPEP TRUST (Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund

Article 6-Water Department Operating Budget

Article 7-Fire Department Ambulance Budget

Article 8-Local Access Programming Cable related funds Salary & Expenses.

Consent Calendar:

Article 9-Municipal Light Department continuation of Operation.

Article 10 -Chapter 90 reimbursement / Transportation Bond.

Article 11- Town Clerk Dog Licensing Bylaw Amendment.

Article 12, 13 & 14- Are all tied together -Bond Rescinding.

Article 15-Public Safety Buildings upgrades- ARPA Funding & Capital Funding waiting on the budget.

Article 16- Ambulance Purchase \$200,000.00 financed through the Enterprise Fund was questioned.

Article 17-Water Treatment upgrade.

Article 18-Water Treatment Plant Design.

19 CPA Articles -List was given to the Board.

G. Fowler would like money to be added to the OPEP funds each year.

D. Dawes asked if the Governor has increased Chapter 90 Funding Budget yet.

D. Dawes inquired if there are any contracts that are not done yet.

A. Smith asked if the area could include pilot gardens / native plants around Town Hall.

G. Fowler asked for some clarification of the locations mentioning the location the septic system.

G. Fowler motioned to close the Annual and Special Town meeting warrant, seconded by D. Dawes. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

P. Kershaw asked G. Fowler what was his concern with the timing of Closing the warrant.

G. Fowler was concerned with citizen petition if it came after closing the warrant.

Compensation study - continued discussion -Classification and wage study:

D. Twiss spoke on adjustment and the wording of document, policy is good, be aware of any increases and it should be presented to the Board before it is done.

D. Twiss wording in the document specific name of the Board should be changed does not want to use another term for the name of the Board of Selectman- we are not settings up for using another term, the policy needs to have the Board of Selectman spelled out the way the Board is recognized as the Board of Selectman.

D. Twiss mentioned that the Finance Committee is there to advice the Board on the possibility of increases. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on base pay and cost of living pay.

P. Kershaw asked if COL (Cost of Living) could be spelled out in the report.

D. Twiss motioned the Board to adopt the compensation adjustment policy inclusive of cost-of-living language to changed requested by P. Kershaw effective immediately, G. Fowler seconded motion. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Selectman Kershaw has left the meeting at 8:55P.M.

National Ave:

P. Kershaw updated the Board on the progress of the sale of National Avenue, action items, meeting minutes, were completed on time, accountability piece was there, great meeting, very positive -at the finish line with the Town said by Orlando -site is very good, abutting properties, RFP will be constructed for a public benefit, facilitate additional development.

Votes of the Board:

G. Fowler motioned the Board to approved the presented amended meeting minutes from February 14, 2022, seconded by D. Twiss. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

D. Twiss. motioned the Board to accept a donation from the VFW Post 7608 for four flags at the Harry Murch Park presented to the Highway Department to change out the larger flags, seconded by G. Fowler. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Town Administrators Report: O. Pacheco, Town Administrator:

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator suggested developing a list of flags in Town and to change some of the larger flags on a yearly basis as they are that are becoming weathered throughout the Town.

MVMPO Agreement.

Reviewed with John Cashell, Town Planner, process takes a long time.

D. Twiss motioned the Board to approve and authorize John Cashell, Town Planner to accept the draft Memorandum of Understanding relating to the Comprehensive, continuing and cooperative Transportation Planning Process for the Merrimack Valley (MVMPO) effective immediately seconded by G. Fowler. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Wage and Classification Study:

The Town of Georgetown Wage and Classification Study has been completed by Sandy Stapczynski, Human Resources Services, Inc-Has been completed internal review with sandy -employees have received and are reviewing them -can attend the April 11th meeting if the Board would like, flexible schedule with sandy. Information will be shared with the Board prior to the meeting.

Opioid Settlement: Class action suit:

The Town is expected to receive \$286,190, from the nationwide opioid settlement-the Town of Georgetown is a participating party through the Attorney General's office -Total amounts will be distributed between 2022 through 2038. Small charts were given to the Board with distribution dates.

D. Twiss asked if the information is on line.

MBTA Community Zoning Legislation:

Comments provided by the Planning Board / less than support from many communities / one sides fits all design /a lot of concern over this legislation, asking for comments which need to be back this week to the State.

The following was discussed:

- *Supposed to be easy for commuters*
- *One size fits all approach*
- *Seems to be receiving less than zero support*
- *½ mile of a t-stop*
- *We don't have the utility infrastructure*
- *Traffic concerns*
- *Not required to do any development*
- *Determining reasonable size*
- *Designate a District*
- *50 continuing acres*
- *Special permit cannot be applied to this.*
- *It is the Law and we have been asked for comments.*
-

D. Dawes added some of his own comments

D. Twiss & D. Dawes stated they are not in support of this.

G. Fowler trying to understand what the state is trying to do with this legislation, development in Boxford was spoken of -Meadow Brook & Charles Street area, -small homes are now double the size, cannot really build out, better plan with more affordable housing, nice little residential area, Town needs better planning.

D. Twiss spoke on economic and financial components that are being ignored.

Town Hall Landscaping:

P. Durkee, Highway Supervisor spoke on the removal of shrubs at the exit of Town Hall, granite marker, re-location of the Flag Pole to make snow plowing easier, P. Durkee will speak with Whittier School a Mason Group from the Whittier school will help with the renovations. Esthetically pleasing – Granite marker -local family.

P. Kershaw asked if the Town can use Community Preservation Committee funding to develop a plan.

D. Twiss motioned the Board to allow the Highway Department, Supervisor Peter Durkee to remove the shrubs in front of Town Hall and to ask a local family who owns the Flag Pole to be moved either in front of the sign and or behind the sign seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

P. Kershaw asked if taking the shrubs out will we get anything in place for them wondering if maybe a landscape architect may have suggestions questioned what it will look like when removed.

D. Dawes asked if a cost has been associated with this.

Adjournment:

G. Fowler moved to adjourn with D. Twiss seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42PM. meeting minutes transcribed by Maureen Shultz, Administrative Assistant.

All Board of Selectman Meetings can be viewed on our Town Website at <https://www.georgetownma.gov> Under the Community TV tab on the left side.

Documents used in Meeting:

Meeting Minutes from February 14, 2022.

Application for changes to Liquor License for Flatbread.

Town Warrant 5/2/2022

MOU-Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization.